

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 07270

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PROPOSAL FOR OECD-RELATED PROJECT ON
FUTURE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

REFS: A) USOECD 23965, OCT. 10, 1974; B) TOKYO 3647

1. DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE THAT MISSION PROVIDED ITS INITIAL
ANALYSIS OF JAPANESE PROPOSAL IN REF A. NOTE FROM
SECGEN REFERRED TO IN REF B WILL BE HAND-CARRIED TO
DEPARTMENT BY EUR/RPE DIRECTOR PREEG. NOT WAS CIRCULA-
TED IN JANUARY AS INTERNAL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT WHICH
HAS NOT OFFICIAL STATUS. SECGEN DID NOT TAKE UP JAPANESE
PROPOSAL IN COUNCIL AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD IN JANUARY
NOTE BECAUSE WE AND OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS THOUGHT
JAPANESE SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE AT HIGH LEVEL BY OTHE
R
MAJOR OECD GOVERNMENTS BEFORE SECRETARIAT ATTEMPTED TO
ELABORATE DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION. BE-
CAUSE SECGEN'S NOTE ADDED NOTHING TO OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING
ON THIS SUBJECT, WE DID NOT TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON.

2. ACCORDING TO DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YOSHINO AND
OTHER JAPANESE OFFICIALS WITH WHOME WE HAVE SPOKEN HERE,
GOJ CONTINUES TO VIEW THIS PROPOSAL AS MAJOR INTERNA-
TIONAL INITIATIVE AND CONSIDERS US SUPPORT TO BE ESSEN-
TIAL TO ITS SUCCESS. WE WERE TOLD BY JAPANESE HERE THAT
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ACTIVE GOJ FOLLOW-UP ON PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS FIRST

ENUNCIATED LAST SUMMER, WAS DELAYED BY CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTS (WHICH MADE IT NECESSARY FOR YOSHINO AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RESELL THE PROPOSAL TO A NEW CABINET) AND BY SOME DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY TO ALLOW A MAJOR GOJ CONTRIBUTION. BOTH OF THESE PROBLEMS HAVE NOW BEEN RESOLVED. YOSHINO TOLD US DURING IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN PARIS IN EARLY MARCH THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL WITH P. M. MIKI, WHO REACTED VERY FAVORABLY. MOREOVER, FINANCE MINISTRY HAS AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURE OF \$300,000 THIS FISCAL YEAR FOR THE PROJECT IF IT IS ACCEPTED BY OTHER OECD NATIONS. YOSHINO FEELS CONFIDENT THAT JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION WILL REACH \$1 OVER PROPOSED 3-4 YEAR LIFE OF PROGRAM.

3. JAPANESE PROPOSAL HAS CONTINUED AS SUBJECT OF ACTIVE INTEREST AMONG OECD DELEGATIONS AND WITHIN SECRETARIAT. WHILE DETAILS OF PROGRAM'S CONTENT AND STRUCTURE HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT, WE BELIEVE IT HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL MERIT AS AN EFFORT TO INDUCE TOP GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS AND ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO MAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT PROJECTED TRENDS IN THE ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIEIES AND, HOPEFULLY, TO IDENTIFY OPTIONAL COURSES OF ACTION AIMED AT ACHIEVING OUR OPTIMUM GOALS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS PROPOSAL DESERVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG BOTH ON ITS MERITS AND BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE JAPANESE ATTACH TO IT.

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